



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/528,196	03/17/2005	Takahisa Miyawaki	000023-062	7017
21839 7590 07/23/2007 BUCHANAN, INGERSOLL & ROONEY PC POST OFFICE BOX 1404 ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1404			EXAMINER CHIMIACK, EMILY ANN	
			ART UNIT 1733	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 07/23/2007	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/528,196

Applicant(s)

MIYAWAKI ET AL.

Examiner

Emily Chimiak

Art Unit

1733

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-25 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-25 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 - ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____ |

Continuation of Attachment(s) 3). Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08), Paper No(s)/Mail Date :03/17/2005, 07/30/2005 and 01/10/2007.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

3. Claims 1-12 and 15-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kunihiro et al. (JP 05-295087) in view of Henton et al. (US 4778851).

As to claim 1, Kunihiro et al. discloses a liquid crystal sealing agent composition that is a one component light and heat-curable resin (see the Machine translation, [0001] and [0033]).

- (1) In one embodiment, Kunihiro discloses that component (c) is EOCN-1025, i.e. a solid epoxy resin with a softening point above 40°C (See the Machine translation, [0016] and [0017] and [0070] of Kato et al. (20070122742) as evidence of the softening point for EOCN-1025.
- (2) an acrylate monomer (See the Machine translation, [0011])

- (3) a light-activated radical polymerization initiator (See the Machine translation, [0011]; and
- (4) a latent epoxy curing agent (See the Machine translation, [0011]).

Kunihiro et al. discloses including epoxy resin (c) but does not disclose including a thermoplastic polymer having a softening temperature by the ring and ball method of 50 to 120°C. However, Henton et al. discloses toughening a wide variety of epoxy resins by adding thermoplastic grafted rubber particles, wherein the grafted rubber particles comprise an acrylate core and ethyl acrylate/methacrylic acid copolymer shell in a preferred embodiment. Henton et al discloses that the grafted rubber particles maintain a substantially constant morphology during curing conditions (i.e. the softening point is above the curing temperature.) See col. 2 lines 1-11, 35-37 and 54, col. 4 line 17 and col. 5 lines 24-34. It is noted that the curing temperature disclosed by Kunihiro et al. is as low as 100°C (See the machine translation, [0030]). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to include a thermoplastic component with a softening point above the handling and processing temperatures as taught by Henton et al. in order to improve the toughness of component (c) disclosed by Kunihiro et al.

As to claim 2, Kunihiro et al. discloses that the composition comprises a partial methacrylic-ized epoxy resin formed by reacting epoxy with an acrylic acid in one embodiment, i.e. a partially esterfied epoxy resin obtained by reacting an epoxy resin with a compound having at least one methacryloyl or acryloyl group and at least one carboxyl group in the molecule as evidenced by the Applicant's Specifications regarding acrylics [0076]. See [0012] of the machine translation of Kunihiro.

As to claims 3 and 15, it is noted that EOCN- 1025, previously mentioned in the rejection of claim 1, ranges in number-average molecular weight from 500 to 2000 as evidenced by applicant's Specifications regarding epoxy cresol novalacs [0037].

As to claims 4, 6, 11, 16 and 18, Kunihiro et al. discloses that components (a) and (c) are included in 20 to 80 weight sections and component (b) is included in 30 to 70 weight sections ([See [0027] of the machine translation). It is noted that this range substantially encompasses the following claim limitations:

- i.) the solid epoxy resin (1) is contained in an amount of 5 to 40 parts by weight in 100 parts by weight of the liquid crystal sealing agent composition and
- ii.) (1) is contained in an amount of 20 to less than 200 parts by weight per 100 parts by weight of (2).
- iii.) (1) and (2) combined in a total amount of 160 to 800 parts by weight per 100 parts by weight of (6). See [0027] of the machine translation.

Absent unexpected results, one of ordinary skill in the art would recognize to use any of the weight percents disclosed by Kunihiro et al. as modified by Henton et al. including those claimed.

As to claims 9 and 21, (3) Kunihiro et al. does not disclose a thermoplastic component (3) of claim 1 that is contained in an amount of 2 to 40 parts by weight per 100 parts by weight of the liquid crystal sealing agent composition. However, Henton et al. discloses that the thermoplastic strengthening component is typically included in the range from about 2 to 45 weight percent of the epoxy resin dispersion, with the optimum concentration varying depending upon the materials employed and the end use that is envisioned (col. 5 lines 62 to col. 6 line 1).

Art Unit: 1733

Again, the range disclosed by Kunihiro et al. in view of Henton et al. substantially encompasses the range disclosed by Applicant.

As to claims 5 and 17, Kunihiro et al. discloses that (2) is tetraethylene glycol diacrylate in one embodiment, i.e. (2) ranges in number-average molecular weight from 250 to 2000 and has a Fedors theoretical solubility parameter (sp value) in the range of 10.0 to 13.0 (cal/cm³)^{1/2} as evidenced by Applicant's Specifications regarding polyethylene glycol diacrylates [0041]. See the Machine translation of Kunihiro, [0015]. As to claims 10 and 22, Kunihiro et al. uses dicyandiamide as the amine-based latent curing agent, i.e. an amine-based latent curing agent with a melting point or a ring and ball method softening temperature of 100°C or above as evidenced by the Applicant's Specifications, [0072] of 2006/0009579 A1 (See the Machine translation of Kunihiro, [0021]). As to claims 12 and 23, because the liquid crystal sealing agent composition is consistent and in agreement with that claimed and disclosed by applicant, it is considered to have the same glass transition temperature and gel fraction as that disclosed by applicant.

As to claims 7 and 19, the particles disclosed by Henton et al. has core diameters within 0.9 and 2 micrometers in order to enhance stability of the dispersion. It is noted that the shell for these size of particles do not significantly increase the size of the particles. (col. 4 lines 47-52 and col. 6 lines 17-21).

As to claims 8 and 20, Kunihiro et al. does not disclose that (3) comprises substantially spherical particles having a core-shell structure, and a core layer of the core-shell structure comprises an elastomer obtained by copolymerizing an acrylate monomer and/or a methacrylate

Art Unit: 1733

monomer with a monomer copolymerizable therewith (claims 8 and 20). The rejection of claim 1 is relied on.

4. Claims 13, 14, 24 and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kunihiro et al., Kato et al. and Henton et al. as applied to claims 1-12 and 15-23 above, and further in view of Nobumasa et al. (JP 63-179323).

Kunihiro et al. discloses a method of manufacturing a liquid crystal display panel comprising light curing followed by heat curing but does not disclose performing one drop fill in which the sealing agent is thereafter cured ([0032] and [0046]). However, Nobumasa et al. discloses that one may easily prepare a liquid crystal display element without allowing air bubbles to remain in the liquid crystal by dropping a required amount of weighed liquid crystal (performing one drop fill) on the inside of the sealing agent and thereafter curing the sealing agent (See the Machine translation, Abstract). It would have been obvious at the time of invention to one of ordinary skill in the art to fabricate the liquid crystal display panel disclosed by Kunihiro et al. as modified by Henton et al. with the method taught by Nobumasa et al. in order to easily prepare a liquid crystal display element without allowing air bubbles to remain in the liquid crystal.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **Emily Chimiak** whose telephone number is (571)272-6486. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 8:30-5:30 EST.

Art Unit: 1733

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Richard Crispino can be reached on (571)272-6486. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

EAC

EAC


John Goff

Primary Examiner